

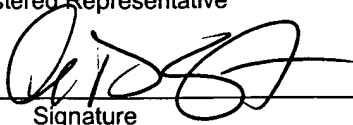
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope, with sufficient postage, addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

3/8/04
Date of Deposit

Andrew D. Stover, Reg. No. 38,629

Name of Applicant, Assignee or
Registered Representative


Signature

3/8/04
Date of Signature

Our Case No.: 659-1095

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Van Gompel et al.

Serial No.: 10/624,333

Filing Date: July 22, 2003

For: DISPOSABLE UNDERGARMENT
HAVING A SLIT AND METHOD
FOR THE MANUFACTURE
THEREOF

Examiner: Unassigned

Group Art Unit No.: 3761

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, it is respectfully requested that this Information Disclosure Statement be entered and the documents listed below and on the attached Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner and

made of record. Copies of the listed documents required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2) are enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner.

The references now cited are the following:

U.S. PATENT NO.	ISSUE DATE	PATENTEE
4,036,233	07/1977	KOZAK
4,662,874	05/1987	KORPMAN
4,941,933	04/1990	KORPMAN
5,804,021	09/1998	ABUTO ET AL.
5,858,151	01/1999	IGAUE ET AL.
5,873,868	02/1999	NAKAHATA
6,217,563 B1	04/2001	VAN GOMPEL ET AL.
6,222,092 B1	04/2001	HANSEN ET AL.
6,262,311 B1	04/2001	NAKAHATA ET AL.
6,264,641 B1	07/2001	VAN GOMPEL ET AL.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY
EP 1 240 881 A2	09/2002	EPO
03176053 A	07/1981	JAPAN
GB 2 218 322 A	11/1989	UK

OTHER DOCUMENTS

Copy of U.S. Patent Application S/N 09/855,182 filed May 15, 2001 for "Absorbent Garment with Expandable Absorbent Element," Fell et al.
Copy of U.S. Patent Application S/N 10/624,660 filed July 22, 2003 for "Disposable Undergarment Having a Cutout and Method for the Manufacture Thereof," Van Gompel et al.

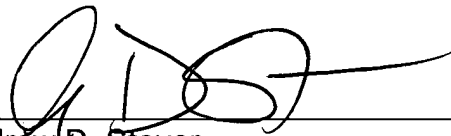
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g),(h), this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made and is not to be construed to be an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b).

Pursuant to the undersigned attorney's obligation and duties under C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.98(a)(3), an English language translation of Japanese reference JP 03176053 A is provided for the express purpose of providing a concise explanation of that reference to the Examiner and the USPTO with opportunity to evaluate the same.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to the receipt of the first Official Action reflecting an examination on the merits and hence is believed to be timely filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). No fees are believed to be due in connection with filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be deemed necessary for any reason relating to these material, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione Deposit Account No. 23-1925. A duplicate copy of this document is enclosed.

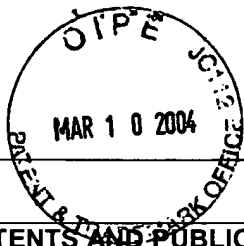
Applicant(s) respectfully request that the listed documents be made of record in the present case.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Stover', is written over a horizontal line.

Andrew D. Stover
Registration No. 38,629
Attorney for Applicant(s)

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. Box 10395
Chicago, IL 60610
(312) 321-4200



FORM PTO-1449	SERIAL NO. 10/624,333	CASE NO. 659-1095
LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (use several sheets if necessary)	FILING DATE July 22, 2003	GROUP ART UNIT 3761
APPLICANT(S): VAN GOMPEL et al.		

REFERENCE DESIGNATION U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER <small>Number-Kind Code (if known)</small>	DATE	NAME	CLASS/ SUBCLASS	FILING DATE
	A1	4,036,233	07/1977	KOZAK		
	A2	4,662,874	05/1987	KORPMAN		
	A3	4,941,933	04/1990	KORPMAN		
	A4	5,804,021	09/1998	ABUTO ET AL.		
	A5	5,858,151	01/1999	IGAUE ET AL.		
	A6	5,873,868	02/1999	NAKAHATA		
	A7	6,217,563 B1	04/2001	VAN GOMPEL ET AL.		
	A8	6,222,092 B1	04/2001	HANSEN ET AL.		
	A9	6,262,311 B1	04/2001	NAKAHATA ET AL.		
	A10	6,264,641 B1	07/2001	VAN GOMPEL ET AL.		

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER <small>Number-Kind Code (if known)</small>	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS/ SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES OR NO
	A11	EP 1 240 881 A2	09/2002	EPO		
	A12	03176053 A	07/1981	JAPAN		Yes
	A13	GB 2 218 322 A	11/1989	UK		

EXAMINER INITIAL	OTHER ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS (Include name of author, title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	
	A14	Copy of U.S. Patent Application S/N 09/855,182 filed May 15, 2001 for "Absorbent Garment with Expandable Absorbent Element," Fell et al.
	A15	Copy of U.S. Patent Application S/N 10/624,660 filed July 22, 2003 for "Disposable Undergarment Having a Cutout and Method for the Manufacture Thereof," Van Gompel et al.

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.